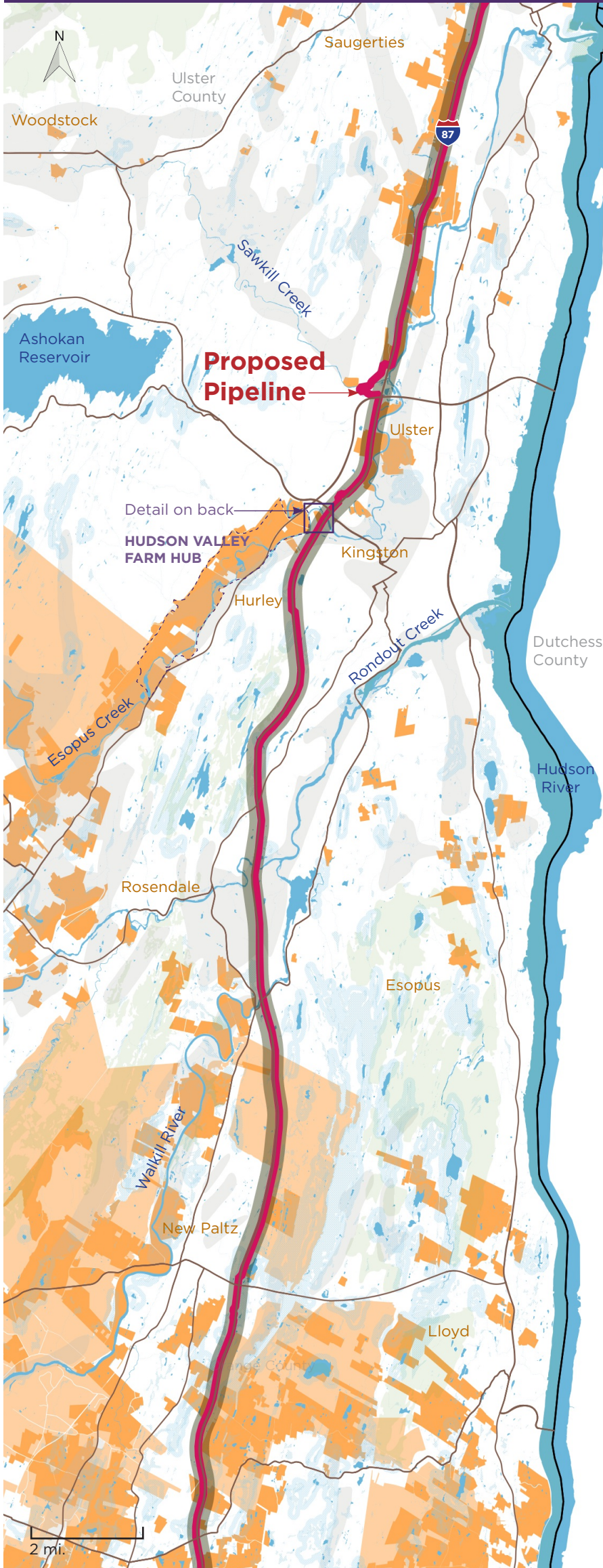


Pilgrim Pipeline: Considering Impacts to Agriculture



Ulster County

The dual oil and gas pipeline proposed by Pilgrim will traverse forests, creeks and streams, wetlands, roads, nature trails, back yards and fields along a 175 mile stretch in New York and New Jersey. Among those fields are farms – farms that depend on quality soils, accessible roads, healthy natural habitats, and clean reliable water resources to produce food.

Consider the thousands of acres of agricultural lands that could be impacted by the proposed project. Will the pipeline construction cause temporary or permanent disruption to crop producing soils? Will pipeline activities and right-of-ways block access to fields, resulting in loss of yield (and revenue) for farms? Perhaps most importantly, could a leak in the pipeline contaminate the complex and interconnected web of surface waters, wetlands, and floodplains upon which our landscape depends? These are among the questions that demand careful scrutiny as the review process unfolds for this enormous proposal.

Farmland Ag. Zoned

Lands characterized as farmland include those that are located within agricultural districts and properties assessed as agricultural. In addition, a large number of acres are zoned agricultural. In Ulster County there are approximately 700 acres of farmland and zoned agricultural lands combined within 250 feet of the NYS Thruway.

Surface Waters

The proposed pipeline crosses four major waterbodies in Ulster County: the Sawkill, the Esopus, the Rondout and the Walkill - tributaries of the Hudson River that provide not only drinking water and recreation, but also irrigation and critical habitat. Properties downstream of the proposed pipeline must be considered. The Esopus Creek, for example, follows an approximately 14 mile path from the Thruway to Saugerties where it meets the Hudson River.

Aquifers

The proposed pipeline crosses several aquifers, many of which are located at sites where Pilgrim's plans call for Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) beneath roadways and under creeks.

Wetlands

Interlinked with the flow of surface waters, wetlands promote water retention and filtration, control storm water runoff, and enhance productive habitats, all of which are critical to agriculture. Both federal and state designated wetlands cross the Thruway at numerous locations along the proposed pipeline route.

Natural Heritage/Ecological Communities

This classification was developed by New York State to assess and protect biological diversity. Disruption to these areas can severely inhibit water retention while displacing wildlife and beneficial insects that are critical to the success of ecological farming practices.

Native American Seed Sanctuary

Tsi Rontenenhanónhna: Where They Protect the Seeds



■ Hudson Valley Farm Hub Parcels
 ■ Surface Waters
 ■ Wetlands

Hudson Valley Farm Hub – A Proposed Pipeline Site in Kingston

The Hudson Valley Farm Hub is a non-profit center for resilient agriculture located on 1,255 acres of prime farmland in four Ulster County municipalities – Marletown, Hurley, Ulster, and the City of Kingston. Founded in 2013, we provide professional farmer training, host and support agricultural research, and demonstrate ecological farming practices. Our northernmost farm field is bordered by the Esopus Creek and the NYS Thruway in Kingston. This section of the Farm Hub landscape is among hundreds of New York fields and waterbodies slated for pipeline construction as shown on Pilgrim's planning documents.*

Our Native American Seed Sanctuary in Kingston:

Our field that borders the Thruway is home to the Farm Hub's Native American Seed Sanctuary, created in partnership with the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe of New York State and the Hudson Valley Seed Company (formerly Seed Library). Here, we are using organic methods to grow Native American seed varieties (corn, squash, beans, and sunflowers) that are in danger of disappearing so as to keep the seed stock, as well as the cultural history it represents, alive for future generations.

Pilgrim's Plans:

As proposed, the dual pipeline would be installed at the Seed Sanctuary site deep under the Esopus Creek via HDD drilling methods and run through the farm field parallel to the Thruway. Immediately to the south of the site, plans show the pipeline crossing the historic U&D train tracks and the O&W recreational rail trail, just a short bike ride away from Uptown Kingston. A permanent pipeline access road is planned for this location.



Visit hvfarmhub.org/about/seed-sanctuary

*Pilgrim Pipeline Facility Layout Plan, April, 2015

Maps and data analysis provided by Hone Strategic LLC, Jennifer Schwartz Berky, Principal